

Round-leaf ragwort (*Packera obovata*)



Round-leaf ragwort (*Packera obovata*) and its cousin golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) are both very adaptable groundcovers for both sunny and part shade areas. They produce a profuse spring bloom of bright yellow flowers and after blooming the basal foliage serves as an attractive groundcover (4"-6" tall) throughout the growing season.

The plants spreads rapidly, even aggressively in favorable conditions, so are excellent as a ground cover for large areas such as woodlands or meadows where they act as a "living mulch" to crowd out invasive weeds. The plants are deer and rabbit resistant, and the flowers are attractive to butterflies!

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *fulgida*)



Black-eyed Susan is a very easily grown and very adaptable plant. It prefers dry to medium well drained soil in full sun, but tolerates light shade, drought, clay soil, dry soil, shallow rocky soil, air pollution, and deer!

Grows 2'-3' tall and has prolific blooms over a long mid-summer to fall period. The flowers attract butterflies and are also nice as cut arrangements or dried.

(Moderate colonizer)

Coneflower (*Echinacea* species)



Coneflowers are very popular for both gardens and meadows. They are easily grown, low maintenance and very drought resistant. The flowers bloom all summer from June to August.

The large flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators. The spent blooms turn into attractive seed heads which provide Fall and Winter interest and are a magnet for goldfinches and other song birds.

Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' is a hybrid which produces flowers in a wide range of colors from rich purples, pinks, reds and oranges to lighter yellows, creams and whites.

(Moderate colonizer)

Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



Beardtongue is named for the tuft of small hairs on the flower stamen. It is a very attractive plant that blooms in early summer with white to very pale violet flowers rising above a dark green basal rosette. The tubular flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

Beardtongue prefers moist, well-drained soil but is adaptable to dry soils and is drought tolerant. It is also deer resistant and salt tolerant.

(Moderate colonizer)

New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)



New England aster blooms range in color from blue-purple to lavender-pink, with yellow-orange centers. It is large and showy, growing up to six feet high. It can flop over if not supported by other plants such as meadow grasses or by staking. For gardens, it can be cut back half-way on July 4th to produce a shorter plant.

Like most asters it blooms late in the season and provides a critical fall nectar source for pollinators, including long-tongue bees, butterflies, skippers, caterpillars of many moths, and many other insects. It is a great plant for Monarchs as they stock up for their fall migration to Mexico.

(Competitive clump former)